



Most Powerful Name

Preview

"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name" (Philippians 2:9).

- To whom is this verse referring? (*Jesus!*)

Today we are going to talk about the powerful name of Jesus.

Praise

A title describes what someone is or what he/she does; for example: student, teacher, daughter, son, mom, dad, doctor, pastor, etc. An adjective is a word that describes a noun; for example: funny, amazing, tall, pretty, soft, shiny, cool, gigantic, fantastic, etc.

- What are some titles and adjectives that describe Jesus? (*try naming titles and adjectives alphabetically; for example: A – Alpha and Omega, B – Bread of Life, C – Chief Cornerstone, D – Deliverer, E – Eternal, F – Faithful, G – Good Shepherd, etc.*)

Jesus has so many wonderful titles and adjectives! But the power is in His name. *Read Ephesians 1:21 from your Bible.*

Parable

Show lists of the most popular baby names of last year and 50 years ago (source: <http://www.ssa.gov/oact/babynames/>).

Discuss the most popular baby names last year. Read the top few. Find any names of class members on the list.

Discuss the most popular baby names from 50 years ago. Read the top few. Find any names of class members on that list.

The popularity of names changes over time.

- Are any names on both last year's list and the list from 50 years ago?



- Are there any names from the Bible on the lists?

The name “Jesus” is above all others, not because it is the most popular, but because it is the most powerful!

- What does “Jesus” mean? (*Savior: “the LORD [Jehovah] saves”*)

Present

When it was time for the Savior—God in flesh—to be born, an angel was sent to tell Joseph what he and Mary were to name the expected baby:

Read **Matthew 1:21** from your Bible.

- What does Jesus save people from? (*their sins*)

Jesus was born to be our Savior.

- He was not born in a hospital or even in His parents’ home because His parents had to travel to what city? (*Bethlehem*)
- Because there was no room in the inn, what was Jesus’ first bed? (*a manger [animal feeding trough]*)

Jesus was born into very humble circumstances. His people, the Jews, didn’t recognize Him as their Savior.

- What kind of Savior were the Jews looking for? (*a savior-warrior, like King David [Jesus’ great-great-great-great...grandfather]; they wanted someone to save them from the Romans, who were ruling them at that time*)

Most people in Jesus’ day didn’t understand that they had a much bigger problem than the Romans. It was the same problem we have today: sin.

- What is sin? (*any act of disobedience to God; anything that comes between us and God*)

Jesus forgave people’s sins. This upset the Jewish religious leaders. They said, “Only God can forgive sins!” They didn’t realize Jesus *is* God.

Later, after Jesus had been crucified, buried, risen again, ascended into Heaven, and sent back the Holy Spirit, two of His disciples (Peter and John) healed a lame man in Jesus’ name. The religious leaders were very upset about this. (They thought when they crucified Jesus they wouldn’t have to deal with Him anymore.) They arrested Peter and John and asked them a question:



Read **Acts 4:7** from your Bible.

Peter explained that Jesus is the name that not only heals, but saves.

Read **Acts 4:10 and 12** from your Bible.

- What is the **ONLY** name by which we can be saved? (*Jesus!*)

Jesus is the **ONLY ONE** who can save us from our sins.

Ppractice

Read **Psalms 20:7** from your Bible.

We cannot trust anything in nature, any human, or any human invention to save us. Only Jesus.

Pray

Read **Colossians 3:17** from your Bible.

We are to do everything in Jesus' name.

- What are some specific things we do in Jesus' name? (*pray in His name [some specific examples: over food, before trips, over sick people], sing in His name, baptize in His name, start the morning in His name, go to sleep in His name, etc.*)

There is power in the name of Jesus! Let's pray in His name right now.

Plus

Read **Philippians 2:9-11** this week. Someday Jesus will return to earth as the warrior-king the Jews were expecting the first time. The power of His name will then be recognized by everyone. What a privilege to recognize the power of Jesus' name now—to call upon it, depend upon it, and trust in it!